

**CIRCUIT COURT FOR CHARLES COUNTY**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No 2021-09**

The Circuit Court for Charles County (“Court”) continues to closely monitor state and local responses to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and follow guidance provided by state and local public health agencies and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC has recently updated its protocols to make the wearing of masks voluntary for those who have completed the vaccination process. The State and local jurisdiction has lifted or will lift some or all health measures in the days to come. However; given the need for those who have not completed the vaccination process to continue to undertake health measures, continuation of the amended health measures required under this Order remains necessary. It is therefore this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021, effective June 1, 2021 and for the remainder of the COVID-19 emergency period, pending further order:

**ORDERED** that effective 7:30 am June 1, 2021, the wearing of face masks is voluntary for judges, Judiciary personnel, and any other persons who have completed the vaccination process, except as described below, and it is further;

**ORDERED** that all judges, Judiciary personnel, and any other persons over the age of two (2) years who have not completed the COVID-19 vaccination process shall wear masks in all courthouse areas at all times, except as noted below, with such masks to cover the nose, mouth, and chin completely, without vents, and it is further;

**ORDERED** that in instances where the public who has not completed the COVID-19 vaccination process arrive at the courthouse without a mask, they shall be provided with a disposable mask, if available, or given means for remote access, if appropriate and possible, and it is further;

**ORDERED** that barriers, including clear personal barrier shields, are not a substitute for and shall not fulfill the masking requirement, and it is further:

**ORDERED** that regardless of vaccination status, social distancing and the wearing of mask is mandatory for all members of a jury pool, or those involved in jury check-in, orientation, assembly, or selection, in any jury assembly area or courtroom, and it is further;

**ORDERED** that social distancing of six feet or more shall not be required for those who have been fully vaccinated or those who identify as being part of a social pod, and it is further;

**ORDERED** that those who have not been fully vaccinated may, with appropriate social distancing, lower their mask to eat, drink, or take oral or nasal medications, but shall replace them upon completion, and it is further;

**ORDERED** that the presiding judge or magistrate may require a participant who is required to wear a mask to use a clear mask or wear a personal barrier shield in lieu of a mask for a limited duration to ensure that the participant can be heard or observed, with due consideration given to social distancing and other public health guidelines, and it is further;

**ORDERED** that any person who seeks entrance to the courthouse shall be subject to COVID-19 screening questions and temperature checks. Any person denied access, as a result of the screening process shall be provided information regarding alternative means to address the purpose of that person's intended visit to the court, and it is further;

**ORDERED** that the Charles County Sheriff's Office shall deny access to anyone, or remove anyone, who is not compliant with this Order.

*H James West*

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H. James West, Administrative Judge  
Circuit Court for Charles County

CC:

Honorable William R. Greer, Jr.  
Honorable Donine Carrington Martin  
Honorable Makeba Gibbs  
Honorable Amy J. Bragunier  
Magistrate Monise A. Brown  
Magistrate Douglas C. Cooley  
Magistrate Mistey L. Metzgar  
Deborah Zrioka, Court Administrator  
Sharon Hancock, Clerk of the Court  
Anthony B. Covington, State's Attorney  
Michael Beach, Office of Public Defender  
Law Library  
Charles County Bar Association